

# The Sun.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1903.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month, \$5.00  
DAILY, Per Year, \$50.00  
SUNDAY, Per Year, \$10.00  
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year, \$60.00  
Postage to foreign countries added.

THE SUN, NEW YORK CITY.

PARIS—Rue de la Harpe, 12, near Grand Hotel, and  
Rue de la Harpe, 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

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## No Time Now.

The Congress now in session is the Congress which was elected when Mr. Bryan was defeated for the second time, and it has a little more than five weeks still to sit. Yet the programme of the Administration that has succeeded that of WILLIAM MCKINLEY is to drive through Congress before adjournment a bill about business which business men oppose as they opposed Bryanism.

As a matter of fact, the question of business as it is now organized, the trust question, has never been the subject of really serious debate in Congress, and the far-reaching proposition of Attorney-General KNOX's, on which all schemes for Federal control of corporations are now based, has never been debated at all. Consequently the threat that the President will call an extra session unless some such anti-trust bill is put through Congress, virtually without discussion, is all the more remarkable.

An understanding has gone abroad that President ROOSEVELT demands such a bill as a necessity, not only of his own political standing, but of the welfare of the Republican party. If that be so, partisanship is about to enjoy the most extravagant exertion of official power in its favor that it has ever seen.

Another rumor is that the great financial interests have concluded not to oppose an anti-trust bill which is not too drastic and inquisitorial. If the great financial interests are happy, so much the better. But their contentment cannot touch the fact that the Administration policy concerning corporations involves a radical revolution in the American system of politics, State and national. Surely the most elaborate and calm discussion is in order.

The measure in prospect is being prepared by a House committee whose chairman has been whipped into accepting it after pronouncing it unconstitutional; next it is to be rushed through the House, if need be, by the power reserved in the Committee on Rules, after debate more perfunctory and hollow than would be given to it by a college society, and then it is to be carried on the same lines through the Senate. Congress, assembled in the Capitol in Washington, is asked to bust the great commercial aggregations known as trusts as cowboys bust broncos on the plains of Wyoming.

The country should not be committed under these circumstances to any novel plan affecting either politics or business. The plain truth is that the Fifty-seventh Congress has not now time to take up the question of trust regulation.

## A "Stump" to Read Emerson.

The hundredth anniversary of the birthday of RALPH WALDO EMERSON will be celebrated next May; celebrated with the more enthusiasm from New England because all her great gods are dead and she has to console herself with reminiscences as she sits in her rocking chair in the twilight. We are pained to see that a New Yorker of Brooklyn, the Rev. JOHN WHITE CHADWICK, makes an unconsciously cruel proposal in our esteemed old contemporary, the *Christian Register*, so long the organ of that accomplished Unitarianism which had so great a part in the literary glories of New England.

Mr. CHADWICK would make the Emersonian commemoration memorable by inducing the Emersonians, genuine or spurious, to "read EMERSON through, right straight through," in the course of the year. "I stump all who love EMERSON to do it," cries Mr. CHADWICK with a homely heartiness which almost disarms us. But prod him we must, for he dares to attack a vast modern institution, the clearing house of thought, the exchange, elevator and warehouse of literature, the "club" and "club." He dares to assert that Emerson classes, Browning clubs, Shakespeare classes, Dante clubs, Markham reading circles, and so on, while doing good to those whom they benefit, "are miserable substitutes for the writers criticism in their native simplicity and strength."

We call around us the innumerable happy millions, especially of women and "young persons," who feel the time carelessly by hearing or reading papers upon all ancient and most modern authors. Why, the meanest little hamlet has a club that is capable of discussing "Women in Greek Tragedy," "The Madness of Tasso," "The Real Veil of DANTE," "MOLIÈRE Compared with G. BERNARD SHAW," "MILTON, SHELLEY, KEATS and MADISON CRAWFORD," "The Sonnet from Its Origin to the Aquinadinal Sequences of WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON," "FROM MICHAEL WIGGLESWORTH," "ROBERT GRANT: A Century of Puritan Literature," "ARISTOT, CERVANTES and ALFRED BATES," "HESIOD, THEOCRITUS, BION, MOSCHUS, WILLIAM BARNES, BLOODGOOD CUTLER and SAMBO BOWLES; an Attempt to Trace the Course of Pastoral Song Through the Centuries," "PLATO and BRONSON ALCOCK," "RALPH WALDO EMERSON and RALPH WALDO TRINE: A Study in New Thought," "Symbolism in MAETERLINCK and HAWTHORNE," "IBSEN, TOLSTOI and FRANK SARGENT," and so forth without end. Nobody has time to read anything but papers. Much is done, as Mr. CHADWICK admits, and the consumption of tea, little cakes, chicken salads and chocolates may have a stimulating influence upon trade.

We can't understand why Mr. CHADWICK should want and ask people to read EMERSON. It is much richer and easier and saves time to read about EMERSON, and develop the various manufacturing industries of the United States, and markets for the same at home and abroad, domestic and foreign, by gathering, compiling, publishing and supplying all available, and useful information concerning such industries and such markets, and by such other methods and means as may be prescribed by the Secretary or provided by law." There is no innovation here; no revolution in the mild paternalism already exercised by the Federal Government in this regard.

We now come to the two important particulars in which the House substitute differs from the Senate's bill. It will be observed that the Bureau of Corporations proposed by the substitute is lacking in the original measure. There is nothing there corresponding to Section 6 of the House substitute, which is as follows:

There shall be in the Department of Commerce and Labor a Bureau to be called the Bureau of Corporations, and the chief of said Bureau shall be appointed by the President and shall receive a salary of \$40,000 per annum. There shall also be in said Bureau such clerks and assistants as may from time to time be authorized by law. It shall be the province and duty of said Bureau, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, to gather, compile, publish and supply useful information concerning such corporations doing business within the limits of the United States as may be required by the President and any foreign country, and to attend to such other duties as may be hereafter provided by law.

The apparent similarity between this section and that which creates the Bureau of Manufactures vanishes on close inspection, and the essential difference appears. The former establishment is designed to foster and promote manufactures by affording to the manufacturers information useful to their business, principally from abroad. There is nothing in Section 6 about fostering and promoting the American corporations with which the Bureau of Corporations is to occupy itself. The "useful information" in this case is information about them and their business, to be published not for their benefit, but for the supposed benefit of others. The Bureau is an agency of what is called publicity, to any extent to which supplementary legislation may go.

The second capital feature of the House substitute, lacking in the Senate's bill, is contained in Section 12. After authorizing the President to transfer to the new Department of Commerce and Labor, at his discretion and without further legislation, "any other branch of the public service engaged in statistical or scientific work," such, we suppose, for example, as any of the bug or other bureaus of the Department of Agriculture, or the Board of Geographic Names, the section goes on to say:

Or the Interstate Commerce Commission.

In other words, the Department of Commerce and Labor bill, as it now stands between the two houses of Congress awaiting agreement as to its ultimate form, is a measure very important in its possibilities. Its further progress may well receive the attention, from this time on, of the various schools of twentieth-century sociologists.

## Australian Troubles.

The total number of inhabitants in the Commonwealth of Australia was on March 31, 1901, only 3,782,943; equal to an average of 1.27 to the square mile. Adding New Zealand, the population of the whole Australasian group came to 4,555,602, in which the excess of males over females was 223,026. Owing to the limited rainfall in Australia a large proportion of its vast area is uninhabitable, and the prevalence of the squatter system by which a few large sheep farmers have appropriated great tracts of pasture lands causes the bulk of the population to congregate along the coast line and in the cities. The principal cities contain over 30 per cent. of the total population. In New Zealand the land policy of the Seddon Government has helped to disperse the population over the soil, which is better cultivated than that of Australia, where the land is chiefly devoted to grazing.

One of the most noticeable features of the population statistics of Australia is the steadily declining birth rate. The average increase of population by births during the period from 1861-65 was 25.17 per 1,000. It fell by regular decrease to 15.11 per 1,000 in the period from 1896 to 1900. The white natives and settlers in the Australian colonies, too, are beginning to emigrate to the Argentine Republic or South Africa. For the year ending June 30, 1902, the total value of the imports was \$390,645,000, and of the exports \$248,430,000. The public debt charges on the same date were \$41,418,965 or close on \$1,500,000,000 of debt. In 1901 the indebtedness per head of the population was only \$47; on June 30, 1902, indebtedness of all kinds had accumulated to the extent of \$401 per head. One-fourth of the public debt is estimated to have been spent in works of an entirely unremunerative character.

To add to the difficulties under which the Commonwealth of Australia has come into existence, a drought of unparalleled severity has affected the country for over two years, causing a loss of tens of millions of sheep and innumerable cattle and horses; and in the last season the greater part of the wheat crop. At the same time the Government is embarrassed by the impossibility of raising loans in the London market, and by increasing numbers of unemployed in the large cities. Much of the trouble is due to the neglect of provincial Governments to inaugurate works on a large scale for water storage and irrigation by means of wells. The development of sheep grazing took place along the river courses, many of which in the present drought have entirely dried up, causing the total loss of the herds depending on them. There has been no systematic effort to promote afforestation in order to modify the climate.

It is possible that the experience of the past two years may bring about a change of policy and system in the development of Australia, and lead Australians to give more attention than heretofore to the affairs of their own country. It is apparent from the present condition of Australia that what the country needs is population, together with a radical

change in its internal policy and economy in administration. The decline of the birth rate is very significant, and indicates the necessity for a reversal of present policy if white Australia is not to be swamped by the swarming millions of southern and eastern Asia.

## The Militia Bill.

After existing on the statute books for 110 years, during most of which time they were obsolete, the Militia laws of the United States are now apparently to be modernized. The Dick bill to promote the efficiency of the militia passed the House of Representatives in June last, and with certain amendments has just passed the Senate; it is again before the House, for that body to consider the amendments.

The bill, in spite of the fact that it modernizes the existing law, makes comparatively few changes of importance in it. It does away with the old requirements that an officer should have a "spontaneous" and a "hanger," and that an enlisted man should have a musket with a bore capable of carrying a ball weighing one-sixteenth of a pound; and it adds certain provisions covering modern conditions. But it does not increase the President's absolute power over the militia.

The bill provides that every able-bodied male citizen and alien who has declared his intention to become a citizen, between the ages of 18 and 45, shall belong to the organized militia, by whatever name it is known in the different States, or to the reserve militia, but except certain officials and persons in various specified occupations, and members of religious bodies whose creed forbids them to participate in war. The organization, armament and discipline of the organized militia in each State are to be made to conform to those of the army within five years, under penalty of losing the annual appropriation made by the United States. The President may call the militia into the service of the United States in case of invasion or rebellion for a period of not more than nine months; when he does so, the militia is to be subject to the same rules and articles of war as the army, except that courts-martial of its members must be composed wholly of militia officers. The pay of the militia on active Federal service will be army pay.

An Adjutant-General in each State, appointed presumably by the State authorities, is to report annually to the Secretary of War; and the latter is authorized to provide for the participation of the militia of any State, at the request of the Governor, in the manœuvres of the army.

While the bill does not recognize and allow for the different conditions obtaining in the army and the State militias, and is not all that the best-informed militia officers could wish, it is a vast improvement over the existing and unenforced laws, and should be passed. Changes found to be necessary can be made within the five years allowed by the militia to conform to the army regulations regarding organization, discipline and equipment.

## The Automobile Show.

The Automobile Show, now at its height, has already proved a revelation to the people of this country of the developments in motor vehicle construction on this side of the Atlantic.

There appears to be virtually no limit to the use of the motor for moving not only vehicles, but also the machinery employed in a multitude of other contrivances. It is driving ploughs, reapers, ambulances, gun carriages, fire engines, patrol wagons and trucks able to carry tons.

Considering the fact that the show now on, which occupies every available part of the Garden, is five times as large as the one of 1900, and four times as large as the show held in November of 1901, it is not surprising that some uneasiness is felt by manufacturers as to how they are to exhibit their product next year. If the show of 1903 turns out to be as profitable to the exhibitors individually as it now seems likely to be, every one of them, as well as those who may join their ranks within the next twelve months, will want to be represented at the show in 1904.

Believing that the Porto Rico regiment has served its purpose, the Secretary of War has asked Congress for authority to disband it and to enlist Porto Ricans directly into the army. The regiment has made an excellent record, and the fine appearance of its infantry battalion at the second inauguration of President McKINLEY is still remembered. If it were deemed advisable to have rapid organizations prepared in the military service of the United States, the Porto Rico battalions would be retained on the strength of their good reputation. It is a proof of the solid qualities of the members of the regiment that Secretary Root desires to enlist them in the Regular army. An obstacle to doing so, however, appears in the law restricting enlistments in the army to citizens. The legal position of the Porto Ricans is not yet fixed, so that it would require special permission from Congress to enlist them. This might well be given, however, and an outlet afforded for the military instincts of the islanders.

If we are not mistaken, the attack recently made on the Boston city government by President LINCOLN of the Chamber of Commerce there cannot be of very serious effect. Let Mr. LINCOLN the man who, when a mob of rioters were assaulting the employees of the Brine Company and destroying its property, expressed some doubt as to whether the city should continue to protect the company and its men?

There was no election of a Senator in Delaware yesterday, but there was a noticeable deliverance by the distinguished Republican to whom rumor says, ADICKES has been holding out the bait of a Senatorship in return for help to elect ADICKES himself. The Hon. ANTHONY HIGGINS is the man referred to, and we quote his words:

"There are not six men among the R. A. men who can be brought to vote for Mr. ADICKES under any conditions that could possibly arise. As for my assenting to such an arrangement, I could not do it if it would, and I would not do it if I could."

ADICKES cannot be a Senator. His prevention of the election of a Republican some years ago and his preventing the Republicans from filling the two vacant seats in the Senate, except by the agreement that he shall all one, have stamped him as an outlaw, not to be touched by any party.

## THE FEDERAL UNION AND THE TRUSTS.

Reflections on the New Anti-Trust—Interstate Commerce—What a State Has a Right to Do May Not Be Stopped by the Federal Government—The Rules of Federal Intervention.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The Federal Government cannot suppress trusts by first suppressing the State. Neither can the industrial area of the State or its instrumentalities of commerce be supervised by national agencies. Civilized jurisprudence assumes that men are moved by a desire for gain and that profits in business are legitimate and commendable. American institutional principles are especially committed to the preservation of the fruits of thrift, frugality and prudence. The right to life, liberty and to earn and retain property precedes all law. There is no legal limit to acquisition. To the extent that one acquires abundance, he strengthens the State in the Federal Government. The enactment of laws to enforce obedience to a disturbed and clamorous public sentiment. Had these acts not been adjudged by the Supreme Court of the United States unconstitutional, the people of to-day would be overwhelmed with the ruin of the Government established by their fathers. Congress registers the force of every political tornado that sweeps over the country. At this hour, the people are angry with the Congress for not discovering a means of gratifying that anger. The legislation which it proposes constitutes a new invasion of State jurisdiction.

Political, like other jurisdiction, is measured by its efficacy. If a tribunal have not power over a given subject matter to the degree that it may reach and enforce the ultimate principles involved in a controversy relating to it, it has no jurisdiction at all.

It is not allowed, by law, to begin what it cannot, by law, finish. The ultimate principle involved in Government control of so-called trusts, is that production and consumption and incidental agencies shall keep such company, as that production and consumption and labor will be amiable related to each other. That is, that the distribution of wealth shall be satisfactory to the parties implicated in its production. But the Government cannot limit or stimulate production; it cannot limit or inhibit consumption; it cannot provide means for either. It cannot control or satisfy labor; it cannot punish men for throwing these relations out of harmony; it cannot set up an inquiry whether these elements are approaching irritation, and if so, arrest the causes springing out of distribution over which it has no control.

AN AMERICAN DEMOCRAT.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 20.

## Arkansas at Work.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have read with much interest the series of articles on the South which have been appearing in THE SUN. Recently I made an extended tour of the South, and I was much struck by the enormous growth of that section during the past five years, and the general air of progress which pervades it.

I take as an example the State which has been the last to receive the visiting touch of intelligent development—Arkansas.

A few years ago, what might be termed the laboring class—that was then almost a misnomer—occupied itself in two ways. First, in the cultivation of the soil, and second, in the necessities of life, second, with an old-fashioned "cap and ball" rifle, perfecting itself in the art of shooting out the left eyes of coons in the tops of the tallest trees. Those of the laboring class who were of a higher level would discuss in a vague and abstract manner the great natural resources of the State, very much in philosophy. A complete change has been effected.

Now the entire population is at work and materially comfortable. The trees, tall and short, are being worked up into lumber and furniture. There are no more "cap and ball" rifles, and the men are pushing new lines through the State, cotton-planting and various other manufacturing enterprises are springing up, almost in a night. Labor is becoming scarce. Ordinary laborers, who a few years ago received from 10 cents to 15 cents a day, now receive from \$1.50 to \$2. Every man of ability is at a high premium, and the State is full of the most energetic and enterprising of the people.

I did not hear a word about trust-busting, an inspired occupation in the days of Bryan. "Now, however," as one "habitant put it," "we are under a great deal of stress and strain, and we are all working to get on our feet."

Any kind of United States money is good, if there is enough of it. In other words, the old political foundation is over in this State.

It is too busy developing itself by means of plain American hustles.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. GEORGE T. MASON.

## Exports All Right Again.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: For several months those of us whose natural bent is pessimistic have been worrying ourselves and others because of the continued falling off in exports, but the figures for December show that we have turned the corner and are again on the road to fortune.

Our total exports for December, 1902, were \$14,000,000, giving us the following increases over each December in the years named:

1902	\$14,000,000
1901	\$12,000,000
1900	\$10,000,000
1899	\$8,000,000
1898	\$6,000,000
1897	\$4,000,000
1896	\$2,000,000
1895	\$1,000,000
1894	\$500,000
1893	\$250,000
1892	\$125,000
1891	\$62,500
1890	\$31,250
1889	\$15,625
1888	\$7,812
1887	\$3,906
1886	\$1,953
1885	\$976
1884	\$488
1883	\$244
1882	\$122
1881	\$61
1880	\$30
1879	\$15
1878	\$7
1877	\$3
1876	\$1
1875	\$0.50
1874	\$0.25
1873	\$0.12
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